

Welcome to the Legislative Update for April 9, 2010

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight Congressional bills or happenings affecting older Americans. This information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *The Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* Thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW

The Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) March 2010 *Monthly Fiscal Highlights* reports Year-to-date, revenues are (13.9)% below the prior year, and \$(33.7) million below the March forecast. To access, go to: <http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/mfh-mar-10.pdf>

This week saw more than 477 floor actions at the Legislature; the following actions were filed on legislation tracked by the Council:

HB 2026: Advisory Council on Aging; Continuation 4/5 signed by the Governor; Chapter 6, Laws 2010.

HB 2028: Hard of Hearing Commission; Continuation 4/6 signed by the Governor.

HB 2029: Department of Health Services; Continuation 4/5 signed by the Governor, Chapter 8, Laws 2010.

HB 2425: Vulnerable Adults; Attorney Fees 4/6 from Senate Rules Committee okay (proper for consideration).

HB 2426: Adult Guardianship & Protective Proceedings 4/6 okay from Senate Rules Committee okay (proper for consideration).

HB 2469: Certified Medication Assistants; Senate Healthcare and Medical Liability Reform Committee 4/6 from Senate Rules Committee okay (proper for consideration).

Hearings scheduled for next week on bills being tracked by the Council on Aging:

H2242: Reverse Mortgages: Regulations; Senate Rules Committee, 4/12 Senate Caucus Room

H2425: Vulnerable Adults; Attorney Fees; 4/12 Senate Third Reading

H2469: Certified Medication Assistants; 4/12 Senate Third Reading

Note: You can find the agendas for hearings and check to see if the times have changed or committees have been cancelled at the Arizona State Legislature website link:

Committee Agendas:

<http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas.asp?Body=&ShowAll=ON>

At the end of day 89 of the 2010 Arizona Legislative Session: 1,232 bills posted, 162 memorials or resolutions posted, 74 bills passed, 40 signed, two (2) vetoed and 10 memorials/resolutions passed.

To access the Governor's list of bills signed, vetoed and statements, go to the *Latest News* at the Governor's website: <http://www.azgovernor.gov/>

Both the House and the Senate are adjourned until Monday, April 12, 2010.

Session Deadlines **April 17th** marks the last day for conference committees (by Senate and House rule) and **April 20th** is the 100th day of session (by House and Senate rule sine die would be April 24.)

To view the legislation being tracked by the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging, click on the list below:

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24520&listid=40701&print=true>

Note: *This list contains some bills that haven't seen action, and while nothing is dead until the Legislature adjourns sine die, the chances for the bills passage are poor.*

The **FULL LIST** website link above provides you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and is available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the *Arizona Capitol Times*.

Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's tracking list **does not** represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill. It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is likely to be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

If you have a particular perspective to share, you can voice your opinions to:

The **Governor's Office of Constituent Services** at **602-542-4331** or toll-free at **800-253-0883**

Or you may contact the Legislator from your area. You can locate your legislator by going to the **Arizona State Legislature** website <http://www.azleg.gov/> and looking for: *How do I find My Legislators* or by following the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links at the website.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

H.R.4937

Title: SSI Savers Act of 2010

Introduced on March 24, 2010 by Representative Niki Tsongas (MA-5), the bill is cosponsored by Representative Thomas E. Petri (WI-6).

SSI Savers Act of 2010 - Amends title XVI (Supplemental Security Income) (SSI) of the Social Security Act to:

- (1) increase resource limits for aged, blind, or disabled individuals who do not have an eligible spouse;
- (2) require an inflation adjustment for such individuals, regardless of whether a spouse is eligible;
- (3) provide a limited exclusion from resources of certain deferred compensation and education savings arrangements;
- (4) set forth income rules imputing income from certain deferred compensation arrangements; and
- (5) eliminate the requirement that SSI recipients apply for periodic payments from certain deferred compensation arrangements.

On 3/24/2010, H.R. 4937 was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

If you want more information specific to any bill, go to the Thomas website <http://www.thomas.gov/> and enter the bill number or description under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

Other News:

The National Center on Senior Transportation announced the completion of an older-driver safety partnership with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Federal Transit Administration. Six states developed and implemented statewide plans on older-driver safety that includes linkages to alternative transportation systems. Tennessee is the first state highlighted at:

http://seniortransportation.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=NCST2_about_projects_nhtsa_TN&autologin=true

Information & Resources:

2011 2013 Public Forums for the State Plan on Aging

Tuesday, 4/13/2010; 10 11 am; Freedom Recreation Center, 5000 E. 29th Street, **Tucson** AZ

Friday, 4/16/2010; 10 am 12:00 noon; Window Rock - Fort Defiance Chapter House, Fort Defiance, AZ

Friday, 4/23/2010; 11:30 am 12:30 pm; Parker Community Senior Center, 1115 12th Street, Parker, AZ

Tuesday, 4/27/2010; 11 am 12:00 noon; Thorpe Park Senior and Community Center, 245 Thorpe Road, **Flagstaff**, AZ

Thursday, 4/29/2010; 11:30 am 12:30 pm; Holiday Inn, 777 N. Pinal Avenue, Pinal-Gila Elder Abuse Conference, **Casa Grande**, AZ

For more information, contact **Tammy Frazee** at **602-542-2895**.

WHAT: Pinal Gila Council for Senior Citizens Region V, Area Agency on Aging Public Hearings on the Area Plan on Aging

WHEN: Thursday, April 15, 2010 10 am Pinal-Gila Council for Senior Citizens, 8969 W. McCartney Road, Casa Grande, AZ 85194

Friday, April 16, 2010 10 am Miami Senior Center, 506 Live Oak, Miami, AZ 85539

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/PublicHearingFlyer.pdf>

WHAT: Financial Fraud Prevention Expo

WHEN: Thursday, April 22, 2010, 9 Noon, The Colonnade, 19116 N. Grand Marketplace Way, Surprise, AZ 85374

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/MEAPA2010FinancialFraudPreventionExpo.pdf>

WHAT: TimeOUT Workshop; Mental Health Issues in the Elderly

WHEN: Thursday, May 6, 2010, Hansen Mortuaries, 6500 E. Bell Road, Scottsdale, AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/TimeoutFlyerAndRegForm2010UpdatedWithSpeakers.pdf>

WHAT: Professional Development Workshops and Testing for Direct Care Worker Trainers

WHEN:

- Kingman May 7
- Flagstaff May 19
- Phoenix June 17 (full wait list only)
- Tucson June 25

For more information, visit: http://www.azdirectcare.org/For_Trainers.html

The Governor's Office on Aging is pleased to be a Co-Sponsor of new afternoon sessions for people in early stage and/or caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's disease at the 2010 Arizona Alzheimer's Consortium Annual Conference.

WHEN: Friday, May 21, 2010, 8:00 am 5:00 pm, Renaissance Glendale Hotel & Spa, 9495 W. Coyotes Blvd., Glendale AZ

Due to overwhelming response to last years conference, **registration for this free event is encouraged as soon as possible!**

Register online at <http://www.azalz.org/> or call 480-440-7177

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov . Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

The Governor's Advisory Council on Aging would like to thank everyone who supported and assisted us during the Council's sunset review process. We are grateful for the opportunity to continue our mission - "to enhance the quality of life for older Arizonans" - in the decade ahead.

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging
